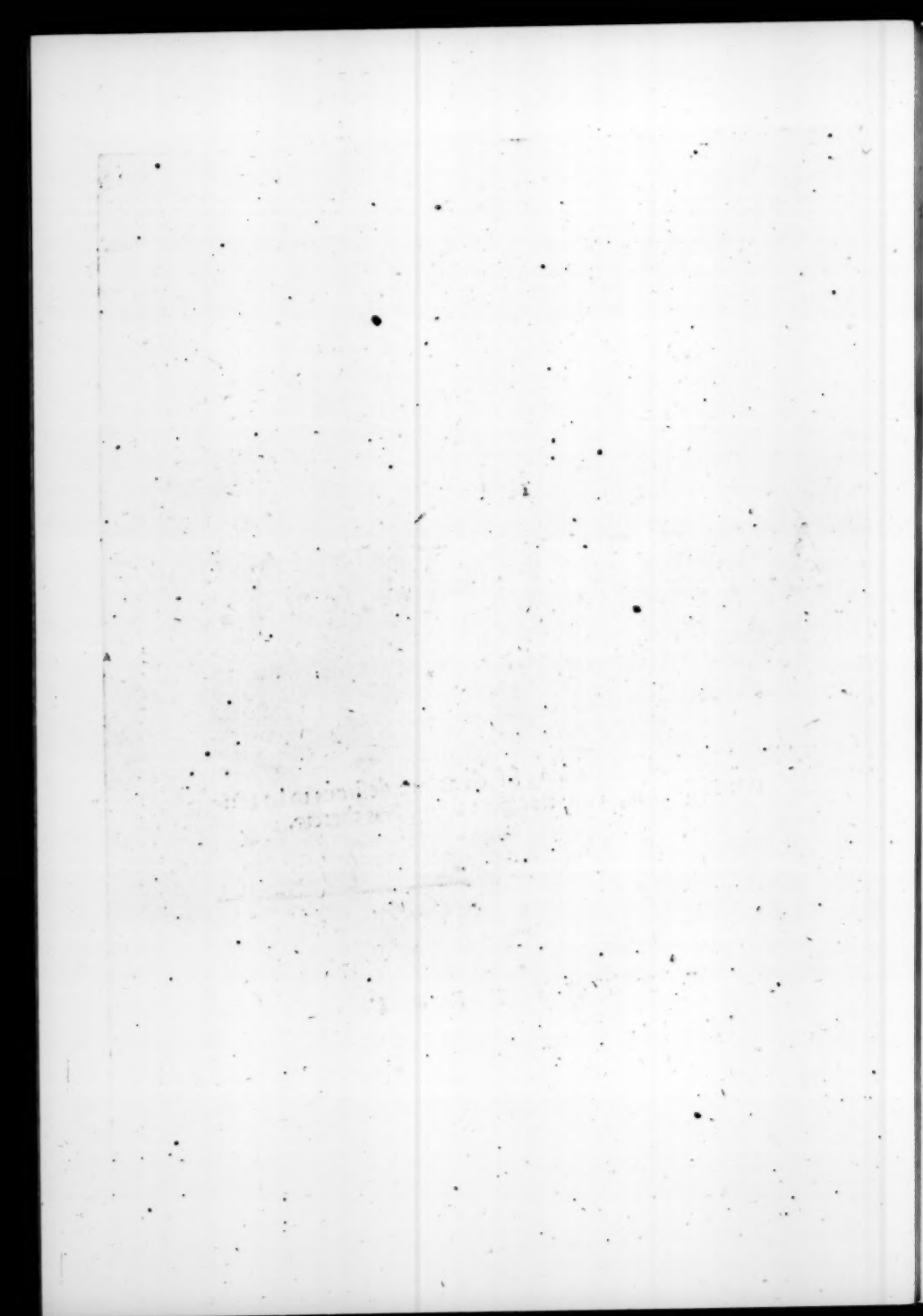


AN
ADVERTISEMENT
Concerning the Province of
EAST-NEW-JERSEY
IN
AMERICA.

Published for the Information of such as are desirous to be concerned therein, or to transport themselves thereto.

EDINBURGH,
Printed by John Reid, 2170 10M. 1085.



A N
ADVERTISEMENT
Concerning the Province of
EAST-NEW-JERSEY
I N
A M E R I C A

THE certain and undoubted account of the Province of *East-New-Jersey*, hath been so authentically verified, now for two years past, by the testimony of persons of unquestionable Credit, who have written from thence; As also by the Verbal account of severals, who having been many Months upon the place, have since returned: that it seems strange there should be any further need, to inculcate the verity or certainty of it. And yet to this day, for all the clamors that have been raised, all unanimously agree, even those Letters, whereupon the late noise hath been built, in asserting the healthfulness, pleasantness, and fertility of the Countrey; its advantageous Situation for Trade, and plenty and safety of excellent Herbors, and Inlets, so that no Ship was ever known, through the uneasiness or disadvantage of the Coast, to be thrown away, nor yet the People to melt away, by disease incident and customary in the Countrey: (which those who Industiously seek to spread reports to the disadvantage of this Province, dare not affirm, in favour of that interest, they seek to set up by decrying it, without being convict of manifest falshood,) also all the reports agrees in the plenty of Cattle and Corn, and Fruits of all kinds, already there, and of Fish and Fowl of all sorts.

But the ground of all these clamors are founded upon some expressions of a letter written by *John Campbel*, to the Lord Secretary, *Lundin*, which because they have been industriously represented, many degrees worse then really they are, are here verbatim insert.

New-Perth, 9th. of
October, 1684.

My Lord,

WE came here on Friday the last of September and found but bad Quarters, there being but four Houses built upon the Proprietors account (which are not worthie to be called houses) they are but little, with one Chimney in every one of them having but two low Rooms, and garrets above, and scarce will hold out Snow or Drift, and they are possessed by others that are here : There are four Houses considerable, building upon particular mens accounts ; that will be finished this Winter, one of them is for the Governour, which *Munivarde* possesse as it was, and calls it the Earl of Perths house ; The present Governour-Depute lives at Elizabeth-town, he came here to us on Wednesday last, and took very great pains to accommodate us all ; and *Lockharts* Ship arrived the next day, which made us very throng ; the Governour-Depute after he had settled us, went alongs and shewed us the Town-bounds, that we might choise out our Town-interest, which falls to be very little for the Town being alwayes computed to be 1500. Acres, it proves to be after survey, but a 1000, of this ; 1000. there is laid out for high wayes, and publick uses, 200. Acres, so there remains to be divided for 24. Proprietors, but 800. Acres, of which 800. there is for every Proprietor within the Town 4. Acres for building on ; so that I have taken up for your Lordship, having the half of a Proprietie in your own hand, including what your Lo: has disposed to *Gavin Drummond* and me, 2 Acres, which your Lo: is obliged by Act of Council here, to build upon within a twelve month, else the first that desires to build after the year is run out (for the better ad-

vancing of the Town, the Governour gives them what is left unbuilt;) but I got him to delay giving of your Lo: to any bodie, till I have your Lo: return whether you resolve to build in the Town or not? If your Lo: do build, 300. lib. will be the least that your Lo: can allow to build such houses as are here building; There is about 33. Acres to fall to every Proprietier within the Town, of which John Reid possesses near the half of the Scots Proprietiers share, and has your Servants and Stock on it: When I begin to talk of calling them to an account of the Stock sent over, they say, It cannot be done till the 4. years is out. John Reid has a considerable dale of land under Corn, and a stock of Cowes and Horse; John Hanton has the other share in another place of the Countrie, whom I have not yet seen. - I shew the Governour depute here your Lo: Commission to me, and Instructions; and desired he would lay out a convenient place near a River, for a House and Plantation for your Lo: But by all that I find, there is no such thing to be had, for all such places are already planted, and taken up; and by all appearance had not the Governour depute purchased a tract of land a little before we came from the Natives, there had not been enough to settle those who came in their two Ships. There is a place called Chir karoray, which by the Governours letter is appointed to be preserved for the Proprietiers; and when the Depute Governour had surveyed it, and computed what was of it, there would not fall 3. Acres to every Proprietiers share, there being so much of it laid out already; So that as yet I can see no convenient place for your Lo. Munivarde and I with some others, are going towards the Hills on Monday, to see that land last purchased, which is computed to be about 15000. Acres, which Munivarde says he will have wholly to himself, and 10000 more if it please him, if not, he will immediately return home, or to Maryland, where he had very good offers of good Land. I do not find no place as I hear of, that is good untaken up within 5, or 6. miles of a portable River; I have not as yet the Governour Deputes final resolution as to your Lo: Plantation; But I will get him to give your Lo: an account of things as they are himself, which he cannot do at the present, he being so taken up with the People that is here. My Lord, as to what I have seen of the product of this Countrie, there is very good Grain, such as Indian-corn, to a great increase, English-
Wheat

wheat, and Oats, and no question Barley and Pease will grow, which they are now going to try ; There is abundance of good Cattel, Horse and Swine, and some Sheep ; they will labour the ground twenty years without any dunging ; there are many good Meadows upon the Rivers ; there is abundance of Deer, Turkiesowles, Quails, and Partridges ; Some of our People has killed of them here very near the Town, and Water-towles in all Creeks and Rivers. My Lord, this is all I have to trouble your Lo: with at present ; But, if your Lo: please to build in your share of the Town, you would send your Commands by the first occasion, with Provision for that end. The Servants that are useful here, are Carpenters and Brick-Layers and Makers, for they may make Brick where they found their houses, this is all from

My Lord,

Your Lordships most humble and
oblidged Servant,

John Campbell.

Now to satisfie all reasonable People, who does not use these expressions, upon a private design, to advance their own interest, and support their desperate adventures elsewhere, and to prejudge others : Let it be considered, that first, Those persons had not been above eight dayes in the Countrey, when they wrote these Letters, wearied, toiled, and fretted, with a tedious Journey about 200. miles overland, from Maryland, where they had been put in. by stress at Sea ; that their information proceeded from the Old-Planters, who besides their enmitie to our Countrymen, and unwillingness they shoud come in upon them ; do all that they can to discourage those at their first coming, and to undervalue the Interest of the Proprietors, because they are behind in above 1000. lib. English, of quit-Rents, would willingly shoun the punctuall payment in time coming, which they see they are not like to do ; and are called in question for several large Tracts of Land, they have had in possession, (tho not improved by them, all agreeing they are a lasie People) and have no true tittle too. And we have
certain

certain information from others, who were many Months upon the place, that they used the same Discouragements to them, upon their first arrivale: But they in a short time discovered their falshood, and fraudulent design in it, as appears in this very case, by Letters written a Month and more, after the date of these, to wit, the middle and end of December, whereas these are in the beginning of November, several abstracts of which Letters when returned from the Countreys where they were directed, to the Parties concerned, may be hereafter published. As to, that which John Campbel says, He hears that there is hardly any good Land untaken up, within 5. or 6. miles of a portable River; his Information has proved so far false, that David Mudie of Montroale, in his letter to his Wife, of the 12th of December, a month after, Declares, he had got 500 Acres, which was his full proportion of the first Division, upon a Navigable part of the South River; where (he says) David Violent hath got the like quantity, though each of them had but a 20th part of a Propriety; and that to this place, they can in a Boat go from New-Perth in two houre and a half, and return in the like time. This sufficiently proves that assertion not to be true; That there is no part untaken up within 5. or 6. miles of a Portable River; Besides, that it is unquestionably known, that without Sandy-hook, by the Sea to the Southward of a place called Nevernicks, there is about 30. miles where there is not yet one Family settled; And there is also a Navigable Bay, called, Barnagate, and tho some of that Sea-side be Pin-tree-land, which is the worst sort, though good for the ranging of Cattel: Yet about Barnagate, where there is also a River, there is as good Land as in all those parts of America, and already cleared of the Indian incumbrance, enough to accommodate hundreds of Families; Besides, that there are several Tracts of Land, untaken up upon Hakinlake, Pissalik, and Raritin Rivers; And there is a large Tract of excellent land upon Millstoun-River, which runs into Raritin, and upon many other Rivers and Cricks which were tedious here to mention, that is altogether untaken up.

Now though some have not spared, to call this Design a Cheat, upon this account, yet that Imputation is so manifestly false, that the Mapp of Jersey

Jersey hath been patent above these two years, whereupon the obvious Navigable places within the Baye, the seven severall Towns, stands, and who ever either did or had thought to engage in the Affair, not only might but were invited to observe it, so far were those Concerned from seeking to conceal it, that they pressed it as an encouragement, that people should not land in a wilderness, or remot from Neighbour-hood, but in a Countrey tollerable well inhabited, where they could be accommodated with necessaries, till they could raise it out of their own Industry, which all, even these Letters yeelds may be done; and with farr easier labour, than here in a years time: Also, These concerned recommended the Province upon that account, because, besides the conveniencie abovementioned, for the land they want in these places, (as being taken up by the Old-Planters, before their Purchase) they have a valuable consideration for it, there being a List to be produced, sent over from that Countrey in September-last, of the names of the Planters, the number of Acres they possesse, and what they pay, which amounts to about 300. lib. Sterling of yearly Rent; though at that time this List was sent, the Rental of all was not compleated; so that those who found upon this as a Cheat, newly discovered by these Letters in the Affairs of Jersey, manifest their malice, or at least their ignorance.

But next, they grossly bespeak their ignorance, that look they have no convenient Land, if not upon a Navigable River: For what Countrey can be supposed to ly all thus? Must not the Riches and Export of the Countrey arise from the Improvement of Corn & Cattel in an In-land Countrey? And as this is clearly proved, by the great In-land Countreies of France, and England, so come nearer home, What Fool will say, That no part of Scotland is Valuable, but what is within five or six miles of a Navigable River? What should become then of the greatest part of all the three Louthcans, of the Sheriffdom of Berwick, of all Clidisdale above Glasgow, and the whole middle part of Fife, where yet the pleasantest Seats in Scotland are. And its to be observed, that even where there is not Navigable Rivers in East-Jersey, there are more Brooks and pleasant running Streams, like those here; then in any of the Neighbouring Colonies. And as it is not to be denied, but the advantage of Navigation is great, to any Countrey, so it is most certain, that

that there is no Province belonging to the English, upon all the continent of America, that is better furnished with good Harbors, and Navigable Rivers, and Creeks than East-Jersey is, for its quantity; And however any have laboured to represent the penury of Land, yet David Mudie in his Letter of the 12th of December, doth say, The Province is a third larger then ever it was represented in Scotland.

The next Objection is, As to the Indian purchase, it was a matter never concealed by the Proprietors, that an acknowledgement was to be given to the Indian Natives, upon the taking up of every Tract of Land, so that in the Instructions, that they have been patent these two years, among other Papers at Andrew Hamillouns, it is positively insert: As also, in the first of the Printed Papers; and whereas it was the design of the Proprietors, as appears by the foresaid Instructions given in to the Deputy Governour in September, 1683. to clear as much of the Countrey as he could from the Indian Incumbrance; He wrote back, That was not a right measure, for the Indians were still offering the land, and it was better only to take it up as there came People; But that if the fourth part of the People of Scotland should come, they should not want Land upon that account, for he could still procure it in time. And therefore, John Campbel saying, if 15000 Acres had not been lately purchased from the Indians, there had not been enough to accommodate those that came in the last two Ships; Which being write but five daves after his Arrival there, shews he was not yet acquainted with the Method of that Countrey.

And yet by Munivards Letter it is obvious, how easie that Indian Incumbrance is, since he write, He was to have 20. miles squar, for less than 250. lib sterling, which yet is above three hundred thousand Acres, so that the consequence of that purchase, need not frighten any; Yet Munivard hath been ignorant in that fancy, since no Subject of the King of England, dare purchase any within the bounds of any Patent granted by him, but by allowance of the Government derived from him: And as to Munivards Complants, of his Bargain, and that he was told by the Deputy Governour, he knew not yet where

where his Land lay, (which yet might be truly said, in an interest undivided, as all the Land is, till it be distinctly taken up) the true mystery of that is known, by Letters of a moneth latter date, from Credible Persons, that he refused to take up land, for Reasons not proper here to insert.

This with the Letters and Testimonies before mentioned, do sufficiently evidence how little ground there is for those reports that have been spread abroad, and tho in particular many scurulous reports, have past upon Robert Barclay upon this occasion, yet none durst ever challenge him to his face, as having done injustice in this matter, and to shew how false they are, let it be considered, that tho he might have put a considerable sum of money in his pocket by selling of part of his own Propriety, yet he never did it, but only procured from others in England, Sharers to such as desired, out of Zeal to advance the Interest of his Countrey men, that though there hath been half a Propriety bought since this clamour was raised, and that he might have so disposed of the half of his own, and yet have reserved as great an Interest as any Scots-Man hath; he choised rather to procure it from England, which shews, he neither sought his own advantage, nor yet hath no Diffidence of the value of the Province, notwithstanding of those clamours; And for the other wild reports, that have been industriously spread upon him as to that matter, they being but a Mass of envy and malice, which of themselves vanish, as such which every Body is ashamed to own, they are not worth the taking notice unto.

Here Followeth the Testimony of some Persons that were many Months in the Province, with an abstract of some Letters write by Persons that are lately gone Over.

W Hereas we understand, that there are some Letters come from East-Jericy of late, from some Persons that are lately gone over there; wherein

wherein they give an ill Character of the Countrey, as if there were not in it land to accommodate those, who have purchased Interests there, although this without doubt may startle those that have not been in the Countrey, and do not know the present state of it; yet to us it seemeth not strange, for had we given ear to the Reports of many persons, who have been long Inhabitants there, we should have writte no less our selves: but we soon perceived their design in it, who being unwilling that others should come in among them, and share of their Advantages, and especially our Countrey People, of whom they were most jealous, because they saw that they took a right way to improve their Interests there, did what they could to discourage us, telling us, that all the best land was taken up, and many other stories to dissuade us from settling our selves, or advising any of our Friends and Countrey People to come and settle there; But after we had been a while in the Countrey, and had occasion to see the Land, and other Conveniencies of it, we found there was no regard to be had to these reports, and saw it was out of meer prejudice they endeavored to discourage us, because they perceived that the SCOTS Proprietors of the Countrey were in good earnest; and as they had begun to send over People, and make settlements upon their Lands, so they would proceed, and examine all other affairs in the Countrey, which was very unwelcome to those Planters; not only by reason of the invalidity, and unjustness of the Titles, whereby many of them claimed so great tracts of Land, as they pretended was already taken up, but because such of them as had good and sufficient Rights, to some parcellis of land, were run so far in the arrears of their Quit-rents, that it would pinch them to pay all they were owing to the Proprietors, and they saw if the Proprietors proceeded in sending over People, and otherways improving their Interests, they must either pay or part with some of their lands, which they were loath to do to any, and especially to SCOTS People, and so they thought that if they could but discourage those that came first over, it would hinder others from coming, and make the Proprietors careless of their Interests.

We doubt not but these persons who have been allarm'd with these reports at their first arrival, will (if they be not altogether careless of their own, or the Interests of their Friends there, and take for granted every thing that the Old-Planters say, without further inspection into the Countrey) write in an-

other strain, for we know there is yet abundance of good land to be taken up: the Countrey being large, and but a skirt of it as yet inhabited. It is from the place called Little Egg Harbour, to the extent of the bounds of it upon Hudsons River, reckoned 120. miles at least, and from thence over to Delavare River, it is affirmed by them that have travelled it, to be above 100. miles, and besides Hudsons River, there are several other brave Rivers, upon which there is land yet to take up, as the Rariton, Pissaick, and Hackinsack Rivers; And also the South-River, and Millston River, and many other Creiks and Rivers, upon all which there is good land to be taken up, and abundance of Meadow, and although some of the land, upon the mouth and a little upwards, upon some of these Rivers be taken up, yet we know that the land above, which is yet untaken up, though it be not altogether so convenient for Trading, so as to have Ships come to it; it hath other conveniencies exceeding that below: For the land is better, and it is generally observed in these Countreys, that the farther up the better the land is, and as the Soil is better, so also the Air is wholesomer, and the Countrey far more pleasant, and not troubled with Musketaes, which breeds in the salt Meadows, upon the mouths of the Rivers, where the Salt-water Ebbs and Flows. And for these Reasons we would as soon choise to settle above upon the Rivers as below; For though ships of burden cannot come up very farr in the Rivers, yet Boats and Cannoes may, which are sufficient to carry too and fro, such things as are needfull, for those that desire to live a Countrey life, and do not follow Trading or Merchandizing, (Towns and Cities being only fit for such.) And indeed the Countrey People themselves begin to be desirous to go backwards into the Countrey and settle; And we believe, that if they had not settled suddenly at their first coming, before they were well acquainted with, and had viewed all the Countrey, they had most of them gone further up; for we know some of them that have sold their Plantations below, and gone backwards and settled new ones; and such as have lived any while in the Countrey, upon Trades or Merchandizing, before they settled Plantations, have gone and settled backwards, as particularlie, the Merchants of New York, who have many of them settled Plantations on the Rariton River, and choised to go far above those

those that first settled; and their Plantations though they be far later, yet are of much more value than those that are below. There is a tract of Land upon Millston River, which lyes far above any that is as yet taken up, that was pitched upon by a person well known and experienced in these Countreies, upon which he intended to settle a considerable Town, and ingadged many Families in New-England to come and settle there, and had sold them land, who being better acquainted with the state of things in America, than any here in Scotland can be, would not left their own Coasts in New-England, and gone there and planted backwards, if it had been inconvenient or disadvantageous: But this person they engaged with not taking the right way to effectuate his designe, was forced much against his will to desist; The Governour of the Province refusing him the land upon any terms, which so vexed the People in New-England, that he had treated with, and sold a part of the land to, that he durst not be seen in their Countrey for a considerable time afterwards.

And besides these Rivers, there are many pleasant Brooks and Rivolets, all over the Countrey, that run into the greater Rivers, upon which many curious Plantations may be settled; So that although many thousands were going over, we know there is Land enough to accommodate them, there being Countreies as yet in a manner untaken up; and particularlie, from Shrewsberry to Little-Egg-Harbor, which is a large Countrey, altogether as yet untaken up; and towards the South-west-part of it, an excellent Bay or Inlet of the Sea, called Barnagate, wherein runs a River; This place we have heard commended by many to be the best place for Fisherie upon that Coast, and that the Land about it is good and convenient, appears by the desire of several of the Countrey People, who to our knowledge, offered to make purchase of land there. It was envied by the Governour of a Neighbouring Province, who could be obtained libertie, would have planted it with People from his own Countrey; So this place being altogether untaken up, may well accommodate many People, especiallie those that desire to be upon a Navigable River, or Bay, it being a place where Vessels may come in.

It seems among other things, these Persons writes, That there is not Land purchased of the Indians, Its true the whole Countrey is not purchased from them, but there is as much purchased as is needful at present, and
more

more then will be settled in haste. For when we came away, the Deputy Governour was treating for above sixty thousand Acres, the greatest part of which was finally agreed for, and the rest very near agreed upon; Seventeen thousand Acres of it lyeth betwixt Rava River, and the Rariton River, five thousand Acres lying betwixt two Creeks, the one called Cheelquaks, and the other Chingaroras, which are the Indian names, and thirty two thousand Acres lying betwixt that Chingaroras upwards in the Countrey, and the lands of Middleton and Shrewsberry, and eight thousand Acres lying upon the Rariton River, and several other Parcels in other places, in all which places there is abundance of good Land, which is altogether untaken up, unless what may be taken up of it by these Persons that are lately gone over, and are arrived since our coming away, so that certainly very many people must go over, before this can be all settled, and to Purchase more of the Indians, untill this or the greatest part of it, be settled, were not prudence, for whereas now the Indians, part with their land, for a small matter, they would if People seemed too earnest to purchase all in a sudden, augment their price.

These things being considered, we know not what reason of discouragement there is, to hinder any from engaging in that Countrey; And indeed we are sorry, that any thing should appear, to stop our Countrey People, that are inclinable to go and settle there, for we are sure, that if they knew, and understood the nature of the Country, and how easily a man may procure a plentiful Livelyhood, for his family in those parts, they would not account those that have rashly written these discouraging Letters their Friends.

And because we are informed, that it is reported in some places, that we have given an ill report of the Countrey: We do hereby, Declare it to be false, for as it truly deserves, we have alwayes commended it, and encouraged such, as we have found inclinable to go thither, as is well known to those among whom we have conversed since our return from thence, and as may appear, by several Letters we write to our Friends while we were in that Countrey; wherein we alwayes acknowledged that the Countrey did deserve, that good Commendation which it generally got, and this hath been confirmed by many Letters from several Persons, that are arrived there, since our coming away

away, who have not been for it, and unadvised in their Censures, as those others have been.

This we thought fit to give forth, for the satisfaction of such, as are desirous to be informed of the Country, from those who have been Inhabitants for a time therein, and have been Eye and Ear Witnesses, to the State and Affairs thereof, testifying under our hands, what we have here written to be true, we remain well-wishers to all our Country People.

At Aberdeen the 5th day
of March, 1685.

David Barclay.
Arthur Forbes,

David Mudies Letter to his Wife.

New-Perth
the 12. December. 1684.

My heart,

I Hope this shall find you and your Children in Good health, and I wish in as much satisfaction as I and our Children are here, far beyond my expectation, and others my well wishers, who are with you, my last to you was upon my arrival here, dated the 2th of November, and at that time I could give you but a small account of my judgement ancient it, it would take a great deal of time to inform you of every thing, as it truelie is; But to be short, I have travelled through a part of it, and it is far larger than ever I heard it reported in Scotland: I dare say, above a third more ground, and there is abundance of brave Rivers through it all, better then ever I did see in any place, brave Meadows alongst all the River sides, good lands above the Meadow ground, abundance of Fresh water Brooks, and Springs, plenty of Fishes in all the Rivers, in the Summer time, and that very good Fishes such as they preserve for Victual in the Winter, & in very few days they use to take more then they make use of in Winter; as for wild Meats there is
of

of all sorts, Cows, Sheep and Oxen as large as in England, and abundantly cheap, considering there goodness; Corns and all Sorts of Fruit in great abundance, and no less then they are called in Scotland. Money within this three years is become pretty plentiful, Servants dear and scarce: I have taken up six Acres of Land in Newperth, which pleases me exceeding well, in regard it is good Land, and fit for building of a City, and Persons of Good Fortune are come from New-York, and other places in the Countrey, and are very busy building, and I am begun to build a house, and have near digged the ground, which is very hard, it being under a great part of it Oker, which is hard to digge, and the least deepnest is eight foot, I have my two Wrights Squaring of Timber for it, and I resolve to have it a good handsome House, six Rooms off a floor, with a Study, two stories high above the Sellers, and the Garret above; And I doubt not if the Frost bid away, but I shall have the Sellers finished, and the galls laid above it, against the latter end of this Month; for the land that lyer to the house, I resolve to fence in two Acres of it for an Orchard, and an Teard, and to have that done before the middle of February, and to have it planted with fruit trees; for I find a man in three years will have more Fruit in such an Orchard then he knows how to make use of.

And about the middle of February, according as the Weather is, I resolve to go out where I have taken up my Land, which is upon a River, called the South River, which is an exceeding pleasant River, and place, there goes onely with me there Mr. David Violent. I can go from New-Perth to it in a Boat, in two houres and a half, let the wind blow as it will, and come back again in as much time; I wish I had as many Servants here as I could make use of. Any man that is frugal, and hath 300. lib. Sterling in Stock, to come over here, and bring over 7. or 8. good Servants with him, I could assure him in 3. years time he should make a stock better then 1000 if not 1500. lib. if he bestow his money right in Scotland, and take advice to bring all things here which is necessary for him to have in this Countrey. I am uncertain of the time I will be at Home, but I resolve you shall come over with me again; and ye will both think and say, when ye see the Countrey, that ye wish it had been done twenty years agoe. I thought it
not

not fit to trouble my friends and relations, since I could not write short Letters to them, but any of them that desires to know the condition of this Countrey, ye may shew them this Letter, since there is no secret in it, you will find by William Burnets Letter, that he desires some of his Sons to come over, and John Geddis writs for some of his Brethren; the which Letters cause deliver them carefully, and get an answer that if they be to come over, ye may speak for their passage timely; he tells some of them are good Wrights; which is all at present, but keep a good heart to your self, and take care of your Children, and I hope to see you with more Comfort then we parted, and I am your ever loving Husband while I breath,

David Mudie.

*James Johnstons Letter to his Brother John Johnston Drougest in
Edinburgh:*

Living Brother,

*East-Jersey the 12th.
of December, 1684.*

I Have taken up a part of my Land, 9. miles from Amboy, and 4. miles from Piscataway, and as far from the nearest part of Rariton, on a Brook-side, where there are exceeding great plains without any Timber, there is excellent Gunning for Dear and Turkeys, of which there is great plenty, and easily shot. But I resolve to see a place called Bernagate, which is 60. or 70. miles from this, on the Southermost place of the Province, where there is a good River and Harbour, the best Fishing and Gunning in any place in America 30. or 40. miles from any Plantation. The Indians here are nothing to be feared, the Place being as peaceable as any where else; I had occasion to travel through Long Island, and Staten Island, and for many miles found as many towns and plantations in the way, as in any so much Land in Louthan; there are no Bears nor Ravinous Beasts but Wolves, which are nothing to be feared, neither are the Countrey People afraid to be among them all night, in so much as I oft times going wrong, and lying
C out

out all night, and hearing there yells about me, and telling that I was afraid of them, the Countrey People laugh at it; neither are the Snakes any thing to be noticed, for nothing can come near them, but they give warning with the rattling of their tail, so that People may either kill them, or go by them as they please. Oxen are so well taught that they go sometimes in a Plough, or Cart, without Horse, or without a Gade-man; Horses and Cattel are as cheap as in *Scotland*, considering their goodness and the difference of the Money; All sorts of *Scotts* goods sells well here, ye will be advised with the next Occasion, what goods sells best in this place. I have great reason to thank GOD, that I am in a place which abundantly answers any thing I expected; The Air is healthful, and the Soil fruitful; the *Indian* Corn yeelds commonly 2 or 3 hundred fold, Oats 20. fold, as I am informed; the *Indian* Corn is an excellent grain, I have eat it and likes it very well in Pottage and Bread; there are several reasonable good townis in this Province, most of them hath more then eighty Families there is no poor persons here, but all are half idle in respect of what they work with you. Flax twice heckled, sold at 9 *d. per pound*. Wool is very cheap, only work is dear; the Liquor we most use is Sider; we have great store of Fruit. In many places untaken up there are many plains and no tree. I have never since last parting had any sickness to keep me from one Dyct, for which I render thanks to GOD. The *Indians* here make it their trade to kill Venison, and sell it to us for a smal matter I will have my Family served with Flesh all Winter; one of their *Sashians*, (which is their King) came to the Governour when I came first here, desiring he might be suffered to trade among us, and not to be beat out of our houses, when they were drunk, but only that we might bind them, and permit them to cut timber, and some such things; At new-Berth, we have a good Stationers Shop of Books the land is no where difficult to clear, albeit trees be 100. foot long & 3. or 4. foot over; I would heartily wish and perswade any to come over that intends to live well, plentifully and pleasantly. Neither is there any Tradesman
or

or Servant that could come wrong to this place, and I could wish my best friends no better but in the same place with me; the old Inhabitants are a most careless and intrugall People, there protection are most part *Protestants*, few *Quakers*, some *Anabaptists*, it is most desired there may be some Ministers sent us over, they would have considerable Benefices, and good Estates; and since it would be a matter of great Piety, I hope ye will be instrumentall to advise some over to us, the place is abundantly healthful, as any else; there are a great difference betwixt the people here, who are Strong and Vigorous, and the people more Southerly in *Mariland*; we have great store of Venison which is sometimes as far as Pork one good Buck is sold at 5. *shil.* and by the *Indians* at 2. *shil.* Oats are sold at 18. pence the Bushell; all sorts of Fish is here exceeding plentifull, the poorest Persons eats no Meat that is Salt, except Pork, in Summer, they live much on Milk. I would no more value the Sea coming through if I had occasion, then ye would riding of 20. miles; let me be remembred to all friends, to *Patrick Fortune* who most carefully dissuaded me from this Voyage, which I doe not repent, but would as carefully perswade others, who study there own good, what I most earnestly desire of you, for the encouragement of this Planration, is, you would be Instrumental to send us over some Ministers, who I dare engadge shall afterwards ever be thankfull, and I oblige to be your ever affectionate Brother,

James Johnston.

*Amboy, or new Perth in America,
9. of November, 1684.*

Dear Brother,

HAVING accidentally met with the Bearer, had not time to give you any particular account of this Countrey, only assure you, that it is beyond (not only) all our expectations, but all that ever you have heard spoken of it, we (praised

be GOD) all of us arrived safely without the loss of any one Passenger; scarcely any of them was ever sick, only we had much troubles coming from *Maryland* by land, our Skipper having for his own advantage put in first at the *Capes of Virginia*; but we have had a brave Prospect of the Country, and all the way as well as in this place where now we are, we found plenty of Corn and all Kinds of Fruit, with Fish, Venison and wild Fowls, in such abundance, that a Deer may be had for 2 *shilling* Country money, and Turkeys for 6. pence; which will be at least as big any 2. Turkeys in *Scotland*, and are really Turkeys, only blacker then tame Turkeys that you have seen; I shall give you full satisfaction with the next occasion, pray you fail not to write to me, when you meet with any, otherwayes you disoblidge him who is ever yours,

D. M^rgregor.

Write to his Brother *Munivard*, in *Scotland*.

Patrick Falconers Letter to Maurice Trent.

Elizabeth-Town in East-Jersey,
the 28th. of October, 1684.

Sir,
MY last was dated the 22. Current, from *Philadelphia*, at which time I could give you but a small account of the Country; and as yet its but a small account, I can give by reason that I have had but a little time here as yet; I have travelled on Foot more then a 100. miles in *East and West Jersey*, and *Pennsylvania*; I have also Travelled in *Maryland*, I cannot but say it is a good Country, but its possessed with a Debauched, Idle, Lasse People, all that they Labour for is only as much Bread as serves them for one Season, and als much Tobacco as may furnish them with Cloaths, I believe it is the worst improved Country in the World, for the *Indian wheat* is that they trust to, and if that fail them they may expect to starve. I find *Pennsylvania* and the two
Jerses

Jersyes are the places which set themselves out most for Planting of Corn; As for the *Jersies* I need not insist in commending of them, for *David Barclay* and *Arthur Forbes* who had a longer stay here than I have had, will give you a more full account; for I intend to write no more than I am able to make good. I may say, that it is a pleasant Countrey, I did never see more pleasant Meadows, and Grass, than I have seen in both the *Jersies*, I have seen plains of good Hay consisting of about 50. Acres of ground, hardly one Tree to be seen upon the whole spot. And there are several places so, I can say, its a well watered Countrey, and good waters, and if they were desirous, they might have very good Quarrie here both for Stone of any sort, and Lime-stone likewise, but so long as Timber is so plenty, they will not be at the pains, to seek after Stone; there are some houses in the Countrey, built with stone but very few. Having fallen in here, the end of the year, I cannot be capable to give an account what may be the product of the Countrey, but I hear that all sorts of Grain hath very good Increase, I see the Countrey abounds with Apples, Quinces, Peaches, Walnuts, and Chasnuts, and Strawberries in great abundance, wild-Wine-Grapes are plentiful, wild-Fowl of all sorts, a great number of Deer, Turckie-Fowls-wild, in great abundance and very bigg, I have seen these things in great plenty: I hope ye will excuse me, because I am not capable to give an ampler account of the Countrey, for I have not been two dayes in one place, I will tell you this is a good Countrey, for men who resolves to be Laborious, any who comes here they must resolve to work hard for the first two or three years, till they get a little Ground cleared, for this must be looked on as a woody-Countrey, tho I must confess the Woods are not so thick as people expects, and there are several places in the Countrey where there is little or no Wood, People are generally curious to have there Land near Navigable Rivers, but when they are better acquaint, they will find that the farther back the better is the Land, there are abundance of Fish and Oysters here, this is not a Countrey for idle people, but such as will be at pains, they need

need not doubt but to get Bread here in plenty, so I wish it be the Lords will that we may have a happy meeting again, his will be done, I wish you may be protected by the Lord, this from

Your affectionate Friend, and humble Servant,

Patrick Falconer.

Abstract of a Letter write by Peter Watson (who went over a Servant with David Barclay, in the year 1683.) to John Watson Mellenger in Selkirk:

New-Perth, the 20th of August, 1684.

Cusling,

I could never write to you before now, because I was never rightly settled, and am not yet fully settled, but I am from among the rest of the Servants, one James Reid and I and our Families are together, set out to a Farm on Amboy, we are to have some Land laid out to us, and we are Stocked with two Mares, four Cows, two Sows, two Oxen; my Wife and I and the Child Richard are very well in health, and hath been so ever since we came out of Scotland: Now as for this Country, it is a very good Country, indeed poor men such as my self, may live better here then in Scotland if they will but work, a man can have Corn and Cattle or any other Goods for his work and he can sell these goods to some hands for money; it is not for a man that hath a Familie to come bound four years, but young men, who have no trouble, they will do better to come and serve four years here then to serve in Scotland, for they are not so hard wrought as in Scotland, and when the four years are out, they can gain abundance to work to other men; or if they desire to settle upon Land

Land of their own, they can have it reasonably Cheap, the hardest work that is here, is clearing of the Ground, and felling of Trees, and the like; the first year is the worst, till they become accustomed with the work of the Country. my Neighbour and I did clear from the middle of February till the middle of May, five Acres of Land, and have it planted with Indian Corn, and Indian Beans, and Tobacco for our own smoking; a man who lives here need go nowhere to buy anything, here he can have Corn and Cattle, and every thing that is necessary for man or beast, if he be Industrious, only the thing that is dearest here, is Cloathing, for there are but few Sheep in this Country, but there are store of all other Beasts, such as Harts, and Coats, and Hogs, there is here good Fishing, good hunting of Deer, and other kind of wild Beasts; The Country is very healthy as I have seen yet, it is colder in the Winter like unto Scotland, But from once the Summer breaks up, it is hotter then it is in Scotland; There are here very good Religious People, they go under the name of Independants, but are most like to the Presbyterians, only they will not receive every one to their Society, we have great need of Good, and Faithful Ministers; And I wish to GOD, that there would come some over here, they can live as well, and have as much as in Scotland, and more than many gets; we have none within all this Province of East-Jersey, except one who is Preacher in New-wark; there were one or two Preachers more in the Province, but they are dead; And now the people they meet together every Sabbath day, and Reads and Prays, and sing Psalms in their Meeting-houses, this Country is very well settled with People, most part of the first Settlers came out of New-England, very kind and loving people, kinder than in Scotland or England, As for the Indian Natives, they are not troublesome any way to any of us, if we do them no harm, but are a very kind and loving people; the men does nothing but hunt, and the women they plant Corn, and works at home; they come and trades among the Christians with Skins or Venison, or Corn, or Pork; and in the Summer time, they and their Wives come down the Rivers, in their Canoes, which they make themselves of a piece of a great tree, like a little Boat, and there they Fish and take Oysters. This Country is a very pleasant Country with Rivers and Creeks full of fish; only it is full of Wood, such as Oak and Walnut-tree, Chestnut, Poplar, and Cedar; The only thing we want here is good People; I wish that all the poor Friends on my Wife's side were here. As for my Brother, if he have a mind to come. Brother if you have but as much in the World as would transport you hither and your family, I would desire you earnestly to come, and bring my Sister with you; if you have as much as will transport you, sell all and come, tho you had not a penny after your passage were payed, you need not fear if you have a mind to work; I was as little brought up with work as any man, yet blessed be GOD, I can work now as my Neighbors, and love very contentedly with my Wife better than ever we did in Scotland; shew my Mother-in-Law that my Wife and I would be very well pleased, if she would come over, there are as old Women as she comes here out of old England; there was one came amongst with us elder than she, if she will come, she shall live with her Daughters and me, as easy, and as well as ever she did live in Scotland; and I do know that was well enough my Wife and I are well at present, as you could wish, GOD be blessed; I can say no more, but my love to my Brother, and his Wife, and all Friends,

I rest your loving Cousin,
Peter Watson.

New-

A Letter writ by John Campbell, to John Dobie.

New-Perth, 1st of November,

B. John,

1684.

I Wrote a line from Philadelphia to you, as we were coming hither, your Cusin *James Dobble* the bearer is in such haste, that I cannot write what I would say; but in short, we are come here to a good wholesome Countrey, in which with little industrie a man may have a comfortable life, there is good Wheat and Oats growing here, and Indian Corn, which our Servants like very well; There is Fish and Fowl abundance, of Cows and Horse, they labour with Horse and Oxen; There is Deer through all the Countrey, and Tuckies which some of our Servants has killed a part of already; there is Pertrages and Quails very rife, that my Wife yesterday morning saw about 20. of them walking before the door like Chickens. I shall say no more till I see farther, for I am with others going to the Countrey on Monday to see for the Countrey letters, for I have taken up the Towns already, and cut down the trees of two Acres of ground with six men in three dayes. My service to all Friends, I am

Your most assured Friend, John Campbell.

P O S T S C R I P T.

BY all these Letters, and many more that could be produced, if need were, it sufficiently appears how little ground there is for these clamours, that have been raised against this Province; And though no reasonable man can suppose that there is a Countrey in the World that will please the humours of all sorts of people; yet it is to be observed, that albeit several hundreds of people are gone to this Province, within these three years from Scotland and England, the reports of them all agree in the main, and laud in the commendation of the Countrey.

Now if any should suspect that these Letters are any ways altered, because some of them are not intirely infer, there being in them other business that relates not to the Countrey; And in others of them, a large account of their Sea-voyage, which were needless here to infer; It is desired, that all who would be further satisfied by these Letters, may repair to *Andrew Hamilton* at the sign of the Ship, in *Edinburgh*, where the original of some of them lyes, and such of them as are not there, may be found with the persons to whom they were directed.

There is a good Ship freighted by Mr. *Robert Blackwood* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, and *David Farclay*, who is to be at *Leith* sometime in *June* next, and is to call at *Montrose* and *Aberdeen*, and thence to sail to the Town of *Perth* in *East-Jersey*; So if there be any persons that are desirous to transport themselves thither, let them repair to Mr. *Robert Blackwood*, *Andrew Hamilton*, or *David Falkner* in *Edinburgh*; In *Aberdeen* to *Andrew Calloway* Merchant; In the *Mearns* to *David Farclay* of *Ury*, In *Aberdeen* Shire; to *Robert Town* of *Leithen*, or *Robert Gordon* of *Gleny*, where such as are willing to pay their own passage, by giving timely notice, may have assurance of good accommodation in the said Ship; And such as are willing to engage as *Tennents*, or *Servants*, whether *Indians*, *Husband men*, or others, let them repair to any of the forecited persons, who will engage with them, upon easie and reasonable terms.

In page 2. in the date of J. Campbells letter, read November for October; And in the first line of the letter, read October for September, which error was occasioned by the Transcriber.

F I N I S.

